

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 22, 2006

The Honorable Mike Rogers
133 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rogers:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and our Auxiliaries, I would like to offer our strong support for your legislation that would protect military families as they bury their loved ones killed in battle. *The Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act* would restrict funeral protests taking place at national cemeteries.

The VFW is adamant that as our servicemembers killed in the war on terror are brought home to their final resting place, they should be given the utmost respect and honor upon burial. It is imperative that we as a nation maintain the sanctity of these occasions and protect their grieving families from those who would dishonor and debase their memory to promote a vain political objective or some base personal point of view. A fallen hero's burial is not the time to express hateful words or carry out protest for whatever cause.

Your legislation would allow those families who have lost a loved one in the name of freedom to grieve without fear of demonstration and verbal abuse. It is the very least we can do for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and those they left behind.

We stand ready to work with you and your staff on behalf of this most worthy legislation. As always, thank you for your continued support for our military families and all America's veterans.

Sincerely,



ROBERT E. WALLACE
Executive Director
VFW Washington Office